

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-32 and 36-51 are active in the case. The Applicants thank Examiner Feely for indicating that the subject matter of Claims 6, 7, 22 and 23 is otherwise in condition for allowance. The limitations of Claim 6 now appear in independent Claim 36, and those of Claim 22 in independent Claim 20. Claims 6 and 22 have been further limited to addition of acids. New dependent Claims 37-46 track the limitations in Claim 36 and find support in the original claims. New dependent Claims 47-49 find support in the specification on page 7, lines 18-28. New dependent Claims 50 and 51 track Claims 6 and 22 but are directed to addition of bases. Other minor revisions have been made to improve the clarity of the claims. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been introduced.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 13 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Official Action requested clarification of certain terms in these claims. Applicants offer the following clarifications:

Formula I stands for an organosilane, and subscript  $x$  is assigned to group  $R^1$ , subscript  $y$  to group  $R^2$  and subscript  $(4 - x - y)$  to group  $Z$ . Furthermore, the conditions for  $x$  and  $y$  as well as the associated boundary condition  $(x + y) \leq 3$  are to be inferred for formula I from Claim 13. Thus  $x$  can stand for the integers 1, 2 or 3 and  $y$  for 0, 1 or 2, while the sum of  $x$  and  $y$  has to satisfy the boundary condition  $(x + y) \leq 3$ .

If  $x = 3$ , then necessarily  $y = 0$ , and so the organosilane contains three groups  $R^1$  and one group  $Z$ .

If  $x = 1$ , then from  $(x + y) \leq 3$ ,  $y$  can assume values of 0, 1 or 2. For the case of  $x = 1$  and  $y = 0$ , therefore, one group  $R^1$  and three groups  $Z$  are present in the organosilane. For the

case of  $x = 1$  and  $y = 1$ , one group  $R^1$ , one group  $R^2$  and two groups  $Z$  are present. For the case of  $x = 1$  and  $y = 2$ , one group  $R^1$ , two groups  $R^2$  and one group  $Z$  are present.

If  $x = 2$ , then from  $(x + y) \leq 3$ ,  $y$  can assume values of 0, or 1. For the case of  $x = 2$  and  $y = 0$ , therefore, two groups  $R^1$  and two groups  $Z$  are present in the organosilane. For the case of  $x = 2$  and  $y = 1$ , two groups  $R^1$ , one group  $R^2$  and one group  $Z$  are present. In view of the above clarifications, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection now be withdrawn.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 4, 5, 8-11, 13-21, 24-27, 29-32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Humphrey, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 4,235,954. This rejection is moot in view of the incorporation of the limitations of Claims 6 and 22 into independent Claims 36 and 20, respectively. Claims 6 and 22 have been indicated as being free of the prior art.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 12 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphrey, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 4,235,954, in view of Moncur et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,378,535. This rejection is moot in view of the incorporation of the limitations of Claims 6 and 22 into independent Claims 36 and 20, respectively.

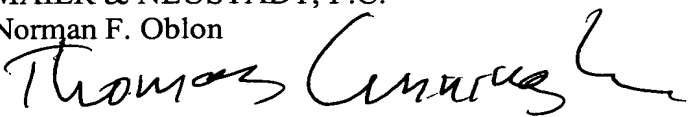
U.S. Application No.: 10/035,168  
Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2004

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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